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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 4. This sheet, which includes Fig. 3 and Fig. 4, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 3 and 4. In Fig. 4, determination of departure time and departure time overlaps/conflicts at the Source are illustrated explicitly.

Attachment:

Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showings Changes

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REMARKS

Objection to Specification under 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1)

The specification has been objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter.

Applicant respectfully submits that the specification provides full support for the claimed subject matter. As previously presented in paragraph [0026], "Destination fails to receive a burst in timeslot 6 on transmission T1, and thereby detects that timeslot 6 is subject to a conflict." Accordingly, detection at the destination that the timeslot is subject to a conflict occurs due to the failure to receive a burst, i.e., non-receipt of a burst. Nevertheless, in the interest of furthering prosecution, amendment of paragraph [0026] is made to include explicit use of the terms 'non-receipt' and 'non-received'. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Objection to Drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a)

The drawings have been objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Office Action suggests that the determining at least one time within the recurrent cycle at which bursts need to depart in order to arrive at the receiving node within a timeslot as recited in claim 2 and the overlapping departure times as in claim 5 must be shown in the figures.

Amended Figure 4 is presented to illustrate that at the source is determined the required departure time of each burst for the granted timeslots and conflicts between required departure times for multiple times slots as recited in paragraph [0028]. Corresponding amendment is made to paragraph [0025] to incorporate this material from paragraph [0028].

Rejection of Claims under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1-6 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-6 are rejected.

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The claims are not amended herein.

Claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Scholefield et al (USPN 5,742,592, herein "Scholefield") in view of Garcia-Luna-Aceves (US 2002/0167960 A1, herein "Garcia"). With respect to claim 1, the Office asserts that Scholefield teaches a method comprising portions of steps a, b and c of the claimed method. The Office acknowledges that Scholefield fails to teach selecting in a manner which is independent of timeslot selections made by other nodes of the network. However, the Office asserts that Garcia teaches selecting in a manner which is independent of timeslot selections made by other nodes of the network; the Office asserts that Garcia [0030] teaches "nodes admit new nodes for quasi-static scheduling independently of one another" for the purpose of "allowing a new node to start using the time slots ... after it receives routing messages from some or all of its neighbors." Thus the Office alleges the claim 1 is obvious over Scholefield in view of Garcia.

Applicant traverses this rejection and respectfully submits that Scholefield and Garcia, whether considered individually or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest each and every limitation recited by claim 1. First, Scholefield is directed to a system capable of allocating plural sub-channels based on user data priority. Based on receipt of access request(s), including any priority indicators, the system determines from the access request(s) whether to allocate the sub-channel(s) to the subscriber. Scholefield Abstract. As the Office acknowledges, Scholefield is fails to teach or suggest selecting in a manner which is independent of timeslot selections made by other nodes of the network.

Likewise, Garcia fails to teach or suggest teach selecting in a manner which is independent of timeslot selections made by other nodes of the network. In a more complete quotation than that cited by the Office, Garcia [0030] states "nodes admit new nodes for quasi-static scheduling independently of one another, and a new node can start using the time slots reserved for quasi-static scheduling after it receives routing messages from some or all of its neighbors indicating that the node is part of its neighbors' routing tables. First, it is noted that Garcia is entitled 'System and method for transmission

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scheduling using network membership information and neighborhood information'.
Garcia [0030] teaches that nodes admit new nodes independently of each another.
However, in sharp contrast selection of a timeslot independent of time selections made by
other node as recited in claim 1, Garcia [0030] teaches that a new node can start using
time slots reserved for quasi-static scheduling only after it receives routing messages
from some or all of its neighbors indicating that the node part of its neighbors' routing
tables.

As further explained in Garcia [0031], 'to use the time slots allocated for quasi-
static scheduling, a node simply orders the IDs of the nodes known to belong to the
known network membership list and maps them in an ordered manner to the time slots
reserved for quasi-static scheduling. In steady state, all nodes that have been admitted
into the [[network]] assign the same time slot to the same node ID, because all of them
have the same list of admitted network nodes and all nodes used the same starting point
(i.e., slot 1) for the allocation of nodes to sots in quasi-static scheduling.' Thus,
assignment of timeslots among nodes of the network as coordinated. Such a timeslot
allocation scheme is not 'in a manner independent of timeslot selections made by other
nodes of the network' as recited by claim 1. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits
that claim 1 is distinguishable from Scholefield and Garcia whether considered separately
or in combination and thus, patentable over these references. Withdrawal of the rejection
and allowance of claim 1 is requested.

With respect to claim 5, the Office asserts that Garcia teaches first and second
receiving nodes (Garcia [0095]) which each select a timeslot for bursts to be received
(Garcia [0092] "IRs can start using the timeslots"), and at a sending node, determining a
departure time for bursts to be received at first node for timeslot selected (Garcia [0028]
"each node assigns a timeslot"); assigning a departure time for burst for first node (Garcia
[0028] "each node assigns a timeslot"); determining a departure time for bursts to be
received at second node for timeslot selected (Garcia [0028] "each node assigns a
timeslot"); detecting a conflict in departure times / overlapping departure times (Garcia
[0095] "unable to receive correctly ... because one of neighbors transmits in same

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timeslot"); and reassigning departure time for burst destined to second node (Garcia [0031] "all nodes .. assign the same timeslot to the same node ID") for the purpose of "reserving time slots to IRs for collision-free broadcast transmissions (Garcia [0056]). Thus the Office alleges it obvious add to the method of Scholefield to determine and assign departure times relating to different receiving nodes, detect conflict, and reassign assigned departure times as alleged in Garcia for collision-free broadcast transmissions over a common broadcast channel and thus asserts that claim 5 is obvious.

Claim 5 depends from and includes all the limitations of base claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits claim 5 is patentable over Scholefield and Garcia based on claim dependency and for at least the reasons above stated. In addition, the Applicant respectfully submits that Scholefield and Garcia, whether considered individually or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest each and every limitation further recited by claim 5. First, the Office alleges that several claim steps involving departure time recited by claim 5 are disclosed by node assignment of a timeslot discussed by Garcia. Applicant has not found discussion of departure time upon review of Garcia. Second, Garcia fails to teach detecting at the sending node conflict in which the departure time of bursts destined for the first node overlaps the departure time of bursts destined for the second node. While Garcia [0095] discusses inconsistencies in transmission schedules according to the method of his invention resulting in IRs being unable to receive correctly a packet transmitted by a neighbor because more the one neighbor transmits in a timeslot resulting in a collision, Garcia fails to disclose detecting conflict in departure times for bursts at the sending node. Again, Applicant submits that claim 5 is allowable over the cited Scholefield and Garcia references and requests allowance.

Claim 2 were rejected as obvious over Scholefield in view of Garcia and further in view of Peterson (US 6,301,262). Claims 3 and 4 were rejected as obvious over Scholefield in view of Garcia and further in view of Padovani et al. (US 6,574,211) and Dail et al (US 5,570,335). Claim 6 were rejected as obvious over Scholefield in view of Garcia and further in view of Cain (US 2003/0193908 A1).
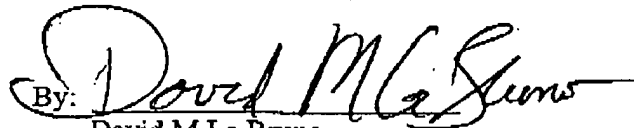
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Claims 2, 3, 4 and 6 depend from and include all the limitations of base claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits these claims are patentable over Scholefield and Garcia based on claim dependency and for at least the reasons above stated.

Based on the above remarks and the amendments to the claims, applicants submit that the claims have been shown to be allowable in view of the prior art and that the basis for any rejections has been overcome.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, allowance of all the claims presently in the application is respectfully requested, as is passage to issuance of the application. If the Examiner should feel that the application is not yet in a condition for allowance and that a telephone interview would be useful, he is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lucent Technologies Inc.
Date: December 12, 2007

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ANNOTATED SHEET

FIG. 3
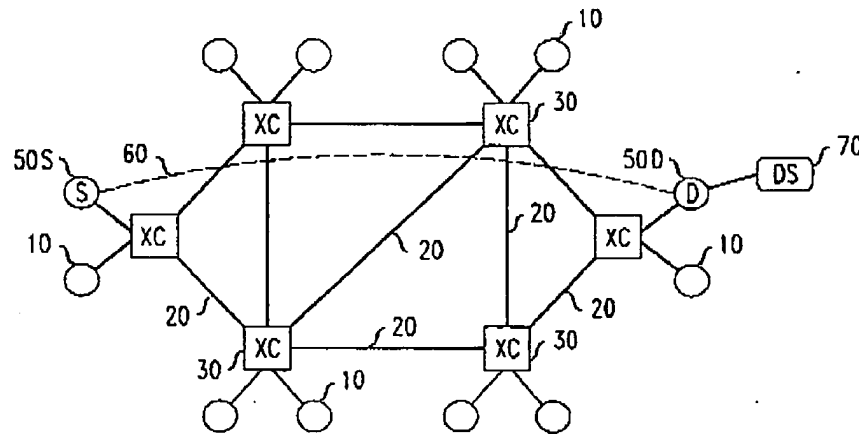

FIG. 4

SOURCE   DESTINATION

REQUEST 3 TIME SLOTS   R1

DETERMINE DEPARTURE
TIMES/OVERLAPS/CONFLICTS
GRANT SLOTS 1, 6, 9   G1

CONFLICT
ON SLOT 6
ADDED

TRANSMIT ON SLOTS 1, 9   T1

CHANGE FROM SLOT 6 TO 8   G2   DETECT
THE CONFLICT
ON SLOT 6

TRANSMIT ON SLOTS 1, 9   T2

TRANSMIT ON SLOTS 1, 8, 9   T3   TIME